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Army Colonel's Sky, Now

A Jack D. Ripper Before Bay Of Pigs?

By JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — In the film farce "Dr. Strangelove," an overseas commander with the ominous name Gen. Jack D. Ripper, cuts communications with Washington so he can't receive orders canceling the war plans he would like to carry out.

Now a similar incident has been described, not in fiction, but in an authoritative account of the Bay of Pigs invasion. And Sen. Wayne Morse, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Latin American Affairs, is investigating.

The alleged insubordination is reported by Haynes Johnson in his book, "The Bay of Pigs," which is based on exhaustive interviews with the men who fought and failed there. Indeed, he was encouraged by no less than Attorney General Robert Kennedy to set the record straight on that unhappy event.

The real-life Jack D. Ripper is identified by Johnson only by his secret code name. He was a flush-faced fellow, known to the Cuban freedom fighters as "Frank," who directed preparations for the invasion.

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ACCORDING to Johnson, Frank heard rumors that powerful people in Washington were trying to block the

invasion. He called in the Cuban commanders and told them to stage a mock mutiny is case the stop order came through.

"They were to place an armed soldier at each American's door, cut communications with the outside, and continue the training," Johnson reported.

Thus Frank would pretend to be a prisoner but would turn over to the Cubans "the whole plan" for the invasion.

"In the end," he is quoted as saying, "we will win."

Senator Morse is determined to find out who the mysterious Frank is, whether he actually had plotted to countermand White House orders, and what disciplinary action has been taken against him if the story is true.

This column has learned that Frank is an Army colonel who was loaned to the Central Intelligence Agency of the Bay of Pigs invasion

but has now returned to Army duty.

The CIA had no inkling of the Jack D. Ripper incident until the publication of Johnson's book. Summoned in for questioning, Frank denied that he ever had any intention of ignoring or circumventing his instructions from Washington.

However, he pleaded with the CIA not to divulge his identity. This not only would hurt his career and embarrass the Army, he said, but might also endanger his family. He feared some Cuban hothead, bitter over the Bay of Pigs fiasco, might take revenge against his children.

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THE WARREN Commission is now putting down on paper its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, the misfit ex-Marine, joined in no conspiracy but was guided by his own mixed-up motives when he gunned down President Ken-

edy from a Dallas window last November.

But this raises another urgent question. How many more Oswalds are there: military defectors who have come back from Communist countries, men trained in the use of weapons and explosives, who, for dark reasons none but they can understand, may be capable of desperate acts?

Of the 22 Army defectors who have returned from behind the Iron Curtain, probably half are mental cases. Only three are safe in asylums. The others were given the routine turncoat treatment: court-martial, prison terms, dishonorable discharge.

For instance, Army records describe a California youth, who stayed behind the Iron Curtain only a few days, as "Paranoid and schizophrenic." Yet the Army sentenced him to three months for desertion, then turned him loose.

A GI from Kentucky, who had a history of mental illness, was given one year of hard labor, then set free. Other mental misfits have fared the same.

Some Pentagon people are now beginning to wonder whether these cases were properly handled. They are worried about another Oswald, mentally disturbed, who may have been turned loose by the Defense Department to pursue his own lunatic purposes.

Note: Commanders with men near the Iron Curtain have been warned to be on the watch for potential Oswalds and to weed them out.

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